

For Immediate Release:
December 30, 2014

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White Urges Motorists to Celebrate the Holidays Safely
Message to Motorists—Don't Drink and Drive

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White reminded motorists who are celebrating during the holiday season to be sure to drive safely – don't drink and drive.

“Drunk driving causes death and injury on our roadways every year during the holidays,” White said. “Let's keep the roads safe for our loved ones and others by driving sober.”

- In 2013, all driving fatalities, including two deaths, were alcohol-related from Christmas Eve through Christmas Day in Illinois, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).
- In 2013, three of the seven fatalities, or 42 percent, were alcohol-related from New Year's Eve through New Year's Day in Illinois, according to IDOT.
- The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes is 4.5 times higher at night than during the day, according to the National Highway Transportation Administration.
- An average of one alcohol-related fatality occurs every 53 minutes, according to the National Highway Transportation Administration.

Secretary of State Police will be conducting DUI patrols during the holidays, said White.

White suggests those participating in celebrations involving alcohol take public transportation, a cab, or designate a sober driver. White also reminds drivers to use safety belts.